

April 29, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Murphy, what do you want to do with the bill?

SENATOR MURPHY: I want to advance it, the only thing is I need 25 people to agree with me. Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to be real long and lengthy in addressing this issue. The matter of racing dates for horse racing was discussed at length the other day when it was pointed out that the Racing Commission sets the specific dates for all races in the State of Nebraska. They are done in a sequential manner so that there is only one track operating at any one time in the state. The commission at the moment is precluded from specifying any Sunday as a racing date. This was established in 1937 in the same year that Senator Chamber's bill on prohibition was established. That has been changed and this has not. The bill addresses itself on more or less of an experimental basis. It is limited to counties of less than 20,000 which means only one track in the state would have the authority of the commission if it so desired, to test racing on Sunday to see if it is in fact practical. Now it is done in many states. The reports are that it is very favorable. This legislature is seriously concerned about revenues and this bill as it applies solely to one track would generate an additional \$50,000 annually in revenues in one race season. I don't know what your idea of taxation is, or how it should relate to net income but I will tell you this that last year this track paid into the state of Nebraska in parimutuel and sales taxes over \$250,000. They paid the state officials who conduct the racing so there is no deduction from this. It is pure net revenue to the state, and they paid those officials an additional \$40,000. Now, I don't know what kind of a business that you are in, but based on having paid a quarter of a million dollars in tax, I would like to ask you to write down the figure of what you think the net income to the tax was. The net income to the track after paying a quarter of a million dollars to the state of Nebraska was \$29,500. Now these tracks are totally a non-profit operation. This track supports two county fairs, Thurston and Dakota. I can not think of a more worthwhile bill. The Legislature is not setting Sunday as a racing date. It is only permitting the racing Commission to do so if it elects too. I ask for your favorable consideration of the bill and ask that it be advanced.

CLERK: Mr. President a motion on the desk. Read Senator Chambers motion.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, gambling is the second of those twin killers that I was speaking of earlier. As Senator Murphy said that a lot of comments were made by me on racing and gambling and generally the other day. But there are some other things that can be said now that might be more appealing to those of you who are not opposed to gambling as such. You all know that Sunday has been set aside as a traditional day of worship in this Christian country. At least it is nominally and historically Christian. It is a